

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL/NO DISSEMINATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
REPORT NO. 00 -B-9365-49
INFORMATION REPORT
CD NO.

COUNTRY: Lithuania
SUBJECT: Success of the Lithuanian Army prior to 1944
Biographical information on officers in the
former Lithuanian Infantry Division
DATE DISTR. 30 Sep 1949
NO. OF PAGES 8

PLACE ACQUIRED: Lithuania/Germany
NO. OF ENCLS.
(UNITED STATES)

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE: 1946 and Berlin
SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION: 1946 and Berlin

RATING OF SOURCE BY OFFICE OF ORIGIN									
COMPLETED	USUALLY	USUALLY	NOT	QUANTITATIVE	TRUE	PROBABLY	POSSIBLY	DOUBTFUL	QUANTITATIVE
RELEASED	RELEASED	RELEASED	RELEASED	RELEASED	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	TRUE	RELEASED
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Source: Lithuanian, a former Army General and, from 1935 to 1940, commander-in-chief of the Lithuanian Army. Success of his resistance to the USSR in 1940, he was read out of the Army and was stripped of rank. He later became active in the Lithuanian underground working against both German and Communist. In 1944, he and his wife fled to the US from Germany where they lived in 30 camps until coming to the US in May 1949. He is presently employed in a small factory and hopes eventually to become naturalized.

1. Since 1940 the Lithuanian Army has ceased to exist as such. Within the framework of the Soviet Army, however, there exists today a Lithuanian Infantry Division which has the headquarters and barracks in Vilna. The personnel component of this division is not purely Lithuanian — that is to say, the officers and men are not exclusively Lithuanians, there being also Soviets, Magyars and others.

2. During World War II, Major-General Tadeus Bartulis was commander of this division, however after, or towards the end of hostilities, Colonel Melnik assumed leadership. Both of these officers were members of the former Lithuanian Army.

3. In 1940, during the first Soviet occupation of Lithuania, Lieutenant-General Vasas Vilimskas was appointed War Minister by the Soviets. He had served as a division commander and General in the former Lithuanian Army and had proved himself to be a fairly good officer. He had always been friendly toward the USSR and apparently decided to make a career with the Soviets. Shortly thereafter (1940) the USSR formed an Army Corps out of former members of the Lithuanian Army. Vilimskas became commander of this Corps which I believe was 30 SS. In June 1941 when Germany invaded the USSR, most of the members of this Corps deserted and fled to their broadcast programs on several occasions from Moscow directed toward Lithuania. As of 1940, Vilimskas was active as head of the military preparation program for students of the Lithuanian University in Kaunas. I believe him to be very pro-Communist.

4. In 1940, Major-General Tadeus Bartulis, former Commander of the Lithuanian Infantry Division under the USSR, was active as head of the military preparation program of military students in Vilna. Bartulis was an able General in the former Lithuanian Army, having served as instructor in the officer school. He was not a very strong character, however, and often drank excessively. On such occasions, military recruits began to his work, in my opinion, he very inactive. In the early 1940's Bartulis studied at the Fachhochschule military school (Hochschule) in Prague. During World War II, he took an active part on the side of the USSR and I believe was leader of Division 16. He is pro-Communist.

5. From information derived from the Soviet press and through my personal in Germany, I learned that up to 1940, the Lithuanian officers mentioned below were still serving in the Lithuanian Infantry Division under the Soviet Army. The estimate, given with this report, are based on my personal acquaintance with these individuals prior to 1944.

NAME	DATE	LOCATION	STATUS	REMARKS
1. Vilimskas, Vasas	1940	Vilna	General	Commander of the Lithuanian Army
2. Bartulis, Tadeus	1940	Vilna	General	Commander of the Lithuanian Infantry Division
3. Melnik	1940	Vilna	Colonel	Commander of the Lithuanian Infantry Division
4. Bartulis, Tadeus	1940	Vilna	General	Commander of the Lithuanian Infantry Division
5. Vilimskas, Vasas	1940	Vilna	General	Commander of the Lithuanian Army

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Colonel Rukins (Rukins)

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Anti-Communist. Very able and popular officer who served as Regimental Commander in Lithuanian Army prior to 1945. Now serving in same position with Lithuanian Infantry Division. In spite of the fact that he has remained in service under USSR domination, I believe he has remained a strong patriot.

Colonel Rudzins

Political sentiments unknown. Served as Lieutenant-Colonel in Cavalry of the former Lithuanian Army. Was a quiet person, not very popular or efficient.

Colonel Suris

Political sentiments unknown. Served with the General Staff of the former Lithuanian Army.

Colonel Tishchenko

Anti-Communist. Very good officer who served as Captain in an Infantry Regiment of the former Lithuanian Army.

Colonel Tishchenko

Pro-Communist. Served as Captain in former Lithuanian Army school. While I was in 20 camps in Germany several articles written by Tishchenko came to my attention. All of them were very favorable to the USSR.

Colonel Zamo

Political sentiments unknown. Although I would be inclined to classify him as Pro-Communist. Served as a Major in Lithuanian Army. He was a flighty, unstable individual whose mind seemed to wander and he couldn't concentrate on one specific problem.

Lieutenant-Colonel Piontchikovich

No information. He had a Lithuanian officer by this name in the Army. However, I do not know whether this is the same individual or not.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rengalis

Pro-Communist. Was a Major in the Lithuanian Army. Good officer, however, he often drank excessively. During World War II, the Moscow radio extolled his services and depicted him as sort of a hero.

Lieutenant-Colonel Zistopadakis

Political sentiments unknown. Appeared friendly, however, by this time even before the occupation. Was a Captain in former Lithuanian Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Zimontakis

No information. Was Lieutenant in Lithuanian Army. Didn't know him well.

Lieutenant-Colonel Apollis

No information. Former Lieutenant in Lithuanian Army. Didn't know him very well.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jomantas

No information. Former Lieutenant in Lithuanian Army. Didn't know him very well.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kazys Ramonaitis

Anti-Communist. Was a Colonel in the Lithuanian Army. Very able officer who has apparently been rejected in USSR.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith

Information. The Lieutenant in
Lithuanian Army. Didn't know him well.

Information. The Lieutenant in
Lithuanian Army. Didn't know him well.

Anti-Communist. Was a Major and very able
officer in Lithuanian Army.

No information.

Pro-Communist. Served as a Major with the
General Staff on Lithuanian Army.
During the first Lithuanian War he
was immediately collaborated with the
Soviet. In my opinion he is very
unreliable.

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